

BIN Edward Seaga

P RIME Minister P J Patterson on Wednesday recognised former leader of the Opposition Edward Seaga for his contribution to Jamaica, and noted that despite the differences on both sides of the political divide, the country had been able to develop and maintain a thriving democracy.

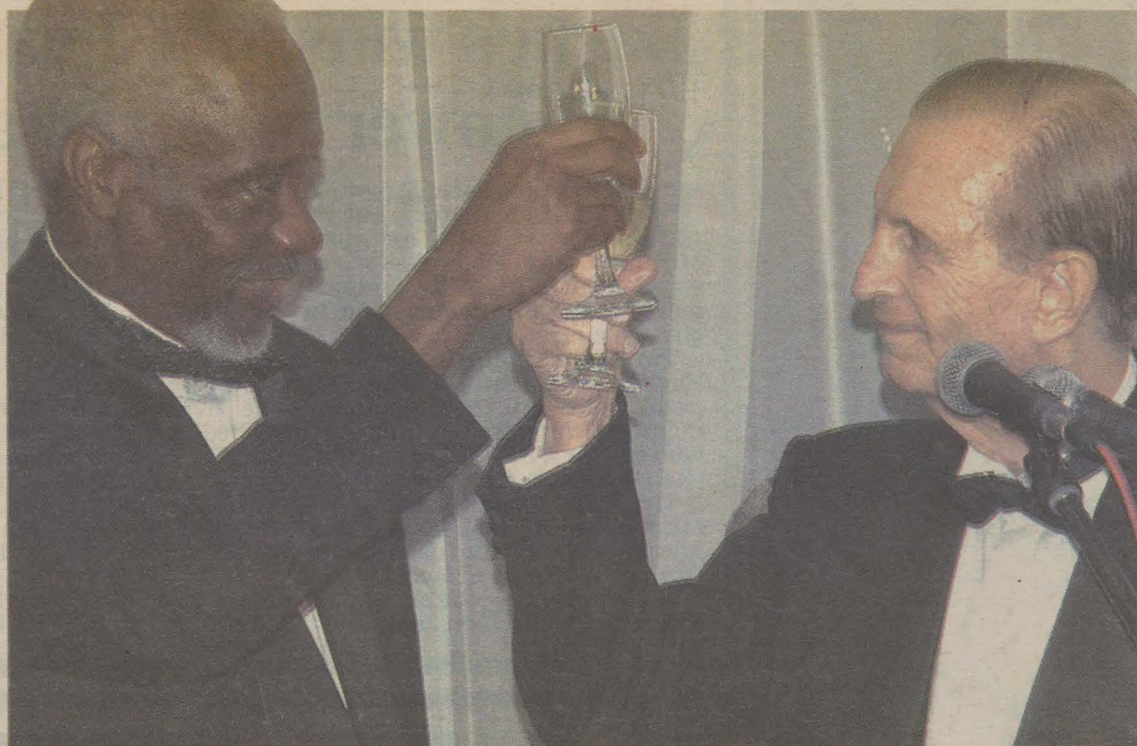
"No matter our political differences, we have been able to create an environment where despite rivalry and differences we are an embodiment of persons and out of many we remain one people," said the prime minister.

Patterson was speaking at a dinner hosted at Vale Royal, his private residence, on Wednesday in recognition of Seaga's retirement from the legislature.

The prime minister, according to Jamaica House, expressed the hope that there would remain an abiding respect for the offices held by the country's leaders and the manner in which they discharged their responsibilities.

In his response, Seaga said Prime Minister Patterson had displayed a level of civility in his conduct as leader of government and commended him for reaching out and extending his hand across the political divide during the period they both served on opposite sides of the legislature.

Seaga said that although he had retired from the legislature, he had not retired from public life, adding that his work at the University of the West Indies and newspaper columns would allow him to



Prime Minister P J Patterson (left) toasts retired Opposition Leader Edward Seaga at a dinner hosted in Seaga's honour at Vale Royal on Wednesday.

PM hails Seaga at Vale Royal dinner

Says Jamaica has maintained thriving democracy

focus on development issues of importance to Jamaica.

Representatives from the judiciary,

academia, business sector and both sides of the legislature were among the guests in attendance at the dinner. *